

Product Information Product Management HPL/HPL Elements

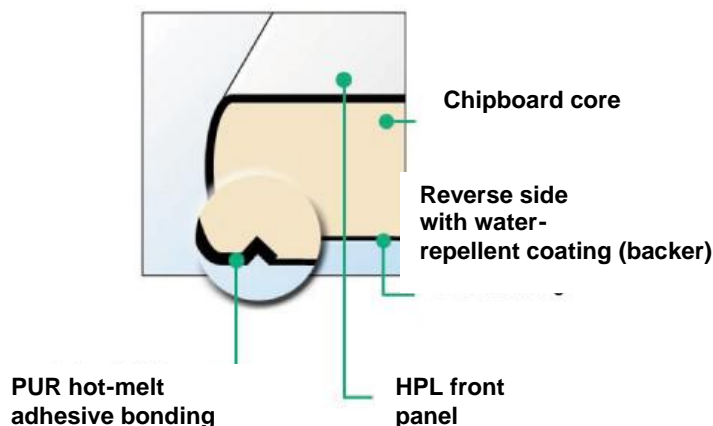
Technical Properties DUROPAL Worktops

A worktop you can really work on! The high resistance against mechanical, thermal and chemical impacts make DUROPAL worktops ideally suitable elements for worktops, tables and counters in kitchens, restaurants, banks, canteens, medical practices and laboratories.

While competitor products often focus primarily on décor, surface and the postforming profile, DUROPAL adds extra values to your worktop that are illustrated below.

The high-quality PUR hot-melt adhesive bonding between worktop, HPL décor and reverse (Quadra and Classic profiles) is currently unique on the market and has a twofold purpose:

- Excellent sealing properties between worktop, HPL décor and reverse
- Profiled edge to protect floor cupboards against penetrating water



A further advantage of the DUROPAL worktop is the water and vapour barrier properties of the lamination on the reverse side.

While the backer of competitor worktops only has a “decorative” character, DUROPAL uses a special backer. The result is a coating that is both water and vapour resistant. The DUROPAL backer is often only “visually” comparable with that of our competitors.

Competitor worktops require the use of additional products, such as aluminium foil to give long-term protection of your dishwasher or oven in the critical areas. Such accessories are redundant with DUROPAL worktops!

Practical test¹ shows the appropriate results. This test can easily be repeated with very simple means: Water is brought to a simmer. The pot must be covered with a metal lid that only has small opening. The worktop with the overlay is placed against the metal lid in such a way that it faces the opening.

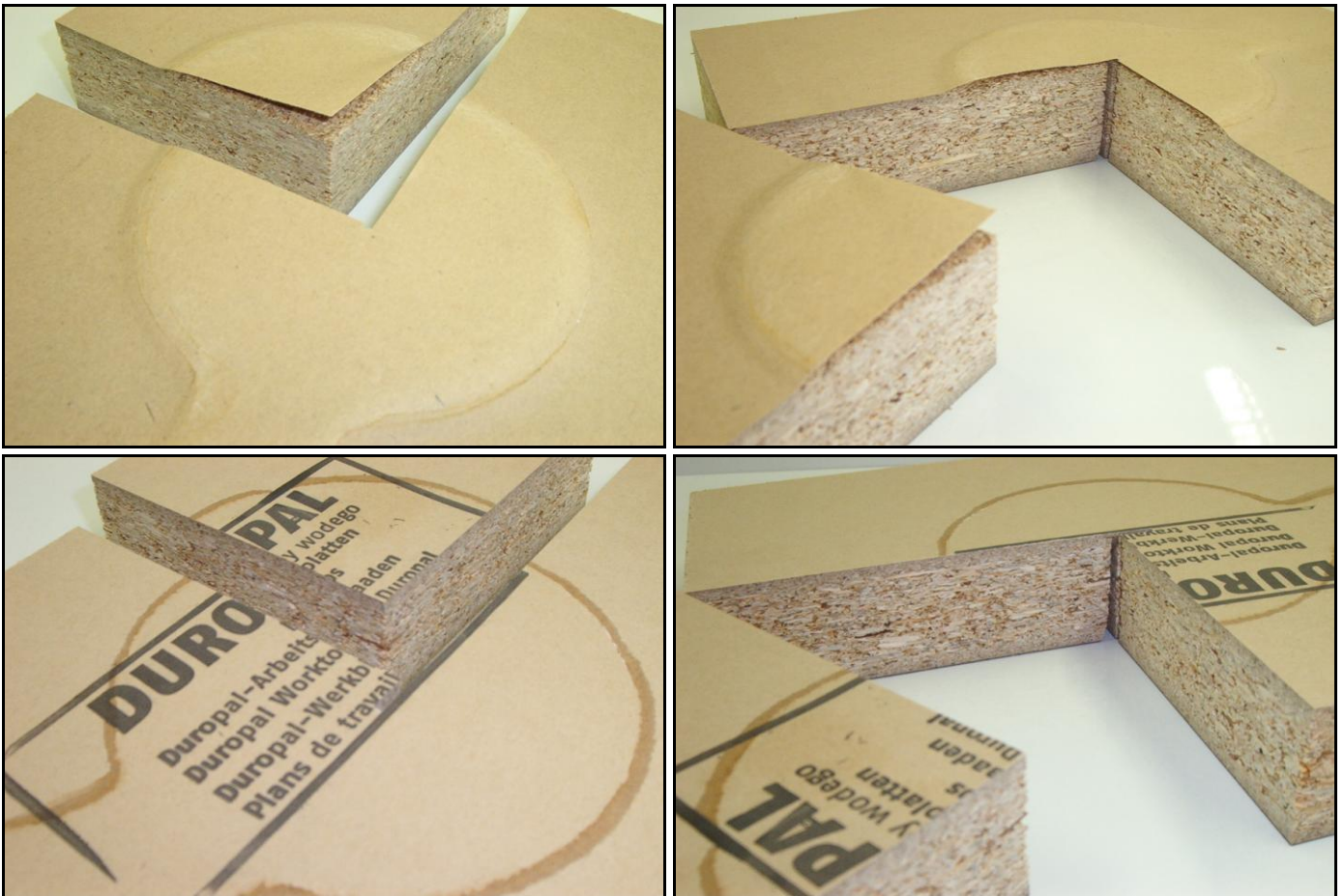
Just after half an hour exposure, the chipboard of competitor products already shows the first signs of chipboard swelling - a definite sign of moisture ingress into the backer. Remember that any moisture ingress can lead to mould growth even after a short time!

¹ See ISO 13894 High-pressure decorative laminates – Composite elements: Part 1. Testing; Part 2: Specification

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The pictures below show a representative example of a competitor product and a DUROPAL worktop. A benchmark comparison between products of well-known manufacturers revealed that all worktops showed considerable signs of chipboard swelling and/or overlay lifting. The DUROPAL worktop merely showed a slight discoloration, but not any swelling of the chipboard core.

All test results and test samples may be inspected on request in the DUROPAL laboratory or by contacting Product Management.



Arnsberg, 07/11/06

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